

# WHITEWASHES HIMSELF!

Commissioner Griffin Makes His Report to Mayor Boody.

OF COURSE HE IS INNOCENT.

He Presents Counter-Affidavits by the Police and Inspectors Involved.

ALL NEGATIVE TESTIMONY.

Compare It With That Which Has Been Presented by "The Evening World."

Health Commissioner Griffin, of Brooklyn, who was left the task of whitewashing himself of the charges of gross impropriety and almost criminal negligence and whose subordinates allowed the inmates of the quarantine house, 155 Prospect street, to appeal in vain for almost a whole week for relief, refused to allow "The Evening World" relief wagon to deliver its stores of provisions to the quarantine, and capped off by raising the quarantine before the time for small-pox incubation had expired, has completed the task of whitewashing.

Commissioner Griffin to-day forwarded to Mayor Boody the following letter:

"Hon. David A. Boody, Mayor.

"Sir: In accordance with your instructions have the honor to report that I have investigated the circumstances attending the quarantine of the house 155 Prospect street, and submit the accompanying affidavits from the inspectors of this department, the inmates of the house and the police in charge. Respectfully yours,

"JOHN GRIFFIN, M. D., Commissioner of Health."

The affidavits annexed to Dr. Griffin's letter were from Dr. Callahan, who, according to Dr. Griffin's statement, reported on the Wednesday following the quarantine that the people needed "something"; Police Capt. Eason, who Dr. Griffin said he had told to see that the people did not want; Sgt. Hartman, of Capt. Eason's precinct; eighteen officers of the precinct; Dr. Jewitt, another Health Inspector and four inmates of the house, namely: Patrick Farrell, Mrs. Farrell, Patrick Boody and Mrs. Boody.

These four people, who are in two families and who are said to be more than friendly terms, are the affidavits-makers to whom Dr. Griffin refers in his letter when he says: "I submit affidavits from the inmates of the house."

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In their affidavits they swear that they did not want food at any time during the quarantine.

Capt. Eason, in his affidavit, swears that at no time did he hear or see it reported that the people in the house needed food.

The eighteen policemen swear that they had been assigned to duty at the quarantine house and that they did not hear any complaints, and that the people had all the food they wanted.

Sgt. Hartman's affidavit is to the effect that he had never heard that the people were starving or needed food.

Dr. Callahan swears that he visited the house several times and saw all the inmates, but that he never heard that they were in want or even needed food.

Dr. Jewitt, another Health Inspector, submitted an affidavit that, although it has no bearing upon the question of whether the people had sufficient food, helps to swell the batch of testimony offered.

Dr. Jewitt simply says that he discovered the small-pox, declared the quarantine and then reported to Dr. Baker.

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missioner Griffin refers in his whitewashing report to the Mayor.

It will be observed that, with the exception of the Boody's and the Farrells, all the affidavits submitted by Commissioner Griffin are made by people against whom the charges of negligence and incompetence rest.

Further, it will be observed that instead of being positive it is mainly negative testimony—"they didn't know," "they didn't hear."

It will also be observed that Commissioner Griffin ingeniously endeavors to create the impression that the affidavits were made by the inmates of the house who made the affidavits presented to the Mayor by "The Evening World," which is not the fact.

It will be recalled that last Tuesday the fact was printed that it was common report in the Prospect street tenement that Mrs. Boody had been induced by health officials to prevent her husband coming to New York to make an affidavit in corroboration of the other tenants.

Mrs. Hayden at that time stated that she had been "reproached" for making an affidavit.

Dr. O'Grady then denied that any attempt had been made to intimidate the tenants, but in view of the affidavits to-day presented by Commissioner Griffin, it is probable that the truth will form its own opinion of the proceedings.

A door-to-door canvass this morning of 155 Prospect street elicited the fact that the housekeeper, Mrs. Ann Farrell, had made an affidavit at the request of somebody from the Health Department.

What this affidavit contained could only be a matter of conjecture, as Mrs. Farrell is a quiet, retiring person, and it is not probable that she would even quite sure of first whether she had signed it. After repeated inquiries, however, she said:

"Come to think of it, I did put my hand to a pen."

After having furnished up her "recollections" to this extent Mrs. Farrell launched into a tirade about the tenement, and the housekeeper said that they had all flogged themselves with food during the quarantine.

In view of the fact that the heads of five families and a son of another family in the house had made affidavits concerning their distress during the quarantine, and the positive statements of neighbors bearing them out, the housekeeper's attitude can only be accounted for on the supposition that influence of some sort had been brought to bear upon her in this matter.

In view of the Health Department's attempt to combat the six affidavits presented by "The Evening World" it would be well to remember that the Health Department by its action of a week ago yesterday acknowledged the guilt of the charges made.

On that day, when "The Evening World," in response to the appeals of the inmates of the quarantine house, sent a wagon load of provisions to the sufferers, the police, acting under orders from the Health Department, refused to allow the food to be unloaded.

Then, under instruction from the Health Department, a sergeant of police made inquiry as to the necessities of the people in the house, and five hours after the arrival of the relief sent by "The Evening World," supplied them with the necessities which were then required.

If any support of this contention be required the files of the Brooklyn Citizen, conceding the organ of "Boes" McLaughlin, may be referred to. In the Citizen of May 13 appears the following introduction to an article on the subject, of which "The Health Department's Tardy Relief for the Needy" formed part of the display head:

"At 10 o'clock this morning the Health Department took the small-pox quarantine of 155 Prospect street. Dr. O'Grady visited the tenement, and after inspecting the inmates and assuring himself that there was no further danger, told them they were free to go where they pleased."

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PUBLIC HONORS TO EULALIA, BETTER TONE ON EXCHANGE.

The People Would Like to See the Charming Princess.

A Plan Which It is Hoped Will Be Approved by Her.

Mayor Griffin and the Committee on Plan and Scope, who have in charge the entertainment of the Infanta Eulalia on her return to this city from Washington, are anxiously awaiting a telegram from Commander Davis, representing the President, near to the person of the Princess, which will convey her wishes concerning the character of her entertainment.

There seems to be a doubt in the minds of some members of the Committee whether or not the sex of our distinguished guests will be taken into consideration in the public functions which might be tendered her.

The committee has called a meeting of the sub-committee for Monday at 4 P. M., and it is hoped that by that time the Infanta will have communicated her wishes, and all will be plain sailing.

There is a manifest growing interest in the Infanta's visit, and it cannot be satisfied by the semi-public form of entertainment which was suggested at the meeting at the City Hall yesterday.

It has been suggested that at least one day be aside for some form of public demonstration which would afford the people an opportunity to gaze upon the Infanta in the most desirable form as it is embodied in the person of the Princess.

It is of a character to annoy the Infanta by its ponderous formality. For instance, a drive from the Hotel Savoy to the City Hall, by way of Fifth avenue and Broadway, to the City Hall, where the Infanta could pass a few minutes, would be a very desirable form of entertainment.

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